Spread of Fluorosis Disease

2337. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the fluorosis disease has been spreading in the country on large scale;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to find out the exact number of patients suffering from fluorosis in the country;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to allocate funds to the State Governments to eradicate this disease; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Epidemiological Studies have shown that 18 out of 23 states are endemic for fluorosis. Reliable information on the exact number of patients suffering from fluorosis in the country is not available.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has launched a Technology Mission on Drinking Water in which fluorosis eradication is an important component. Under this mission 'Defluoridation Plants' are being installed in the endemic areas. Also other methods such as providing safe drinking water and supply of kits to defluoridate the water at domestic level are being used in endmic areas by the State Governments.

Need to keep check on Blood and Blood Products

2338. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMLY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the spread of AIDS in the country is due to blood and blood products supply;

(b) whether any check is exercised on blood and blood products in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) other steps taken by Government to check spread of AIDS in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Transmission of the infection through blood and blood products is one of the routes through which AIDS is spreading in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It has been made mandatory to test every unit of blood to be used for transfusion. In addition, 150 Zonal Blood Testing Centres have been established to provide blood-screening facilities to all the Blood Banks located in the public, private and voluntary sector.

(d) The strategy to prevent and control the spread of HIV|AIDS consists of generation of awareness among risk-behaviour groups and other people, control of STD, blood-safety and rational use of blood and better facilities for surveillance, diagnosis and management of HIV|AIDS cases.

Cadre review of CGHS Physician under Indian system of Medicines

2339. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ayurvedic Homoeopathic and "Unani physicians in CGHS dispensaries have benefited from cadre review and now get promotion to next higher post/grade after completion of 6-8 years of service as Medical Officer;

(b) if so, details of the committee which made the cadre review, when was it constituted and when its report was submitted and accepted; and

(c) details of the benefits which have accrued to the CGHS Medical Officers of I.S.M. and H. (Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy)?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir. They are now eligible for promotitn after 5 years of